

MINUTES of the meeting of the OAK BAY HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay B.C., on Thursday March 8, 2007.

PRESENT: Mayor Christopher Causton, Chairman
Jane Nielsen
W. John Harker
Don Reksten
Christopher Watts
Stephanie Sainas (new member)
STAFF: Nigel Beattie, Sandi Piercy
REGRETS: Jean Sparks

Mayor Christopher Causton called the meeting to order at 8:33 am.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair welcomed new member, Stephanie Sainas to the committee.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The February 8, 2007 minutes were not available for the meeting and will be approved at the next meeting.

REPORT FROM MUNICIPAL CLERK

Loranne Hilton was welcomed to the meeting.

Todd House

The historic home and its property are currently jointly owned by the municipality of Oak Bay and the Province of British Columbia. The province is divesting its heritage properties and offering the municipality a Free Crown Grant that will require negotiation from the municipality. The committee would like to see language in the Grant that will not leave the municipality solely financially liable for deferred maintenance.

The goal is to preserve the house. Heritage Designation of the home inside and out needs to be researched and the extensive upgrading should be estimated. The Heritage Steering Committee and Heritage Advisory Panel may need to make a recommendation to Council for the best way to preserve the home. The Heritage Advisory Panel would like to be involved in the site inspection at lease renewal time.

Web site

The committee feels that there are too many links from the municipal web site to the heritage web site. The committee would like to see the profile of heritage raised in the community, through the web site. Loranne Hilton will work to find some assistance for the project.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING

Budget

The 2007 budget was distributed.

Community heritage register

The Community Heritage register has been updated. There are 60 properties currently in the register. There are three copies of the register in the Municipal Hall.

Heritage Society of British Columbia

The Annual General Meeting of the Heritage Society of British Columbia (HSBC) is on June 1, 2007. Nominations for the Board of Directors for HSBC must be received by April 2, 2007.

Heritage Information Workshop

A breakfast meeting in the small lounge at the Oak Bay Recreation Centre has been set for March 24, 2007. Panel members will be Rick Goodacre, Executive Director of the Heritage Society of BC, Brenda Manweiler, Community Heritage Officer of the Province of BC Heritage Branch and Nigel Beattie, Municipality of Oak Bay's Director of Building and Planning. A particular area of focus for discussion will be the Landsdowne Slope.

HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL

The Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP) has passed on its comments to the Floor Area Ratio Committee (FARC). The HAP had no problems with the proposal, but has proposed variances that would be subject to Council approval.

Three homes applied for demolition permits that were forwarded to the HAP. The HAP would like to see sympathetic building replacement in each of these locations. This will be one of the subjects of the March 24 workshop.

HERITAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Chair, along with Marion Cumming has been researching locations for First Nations interpretive signs along the waterfront.

The Chair and Jane Nielsen have been doing research into the Masked Ball scheduled for October 27, 2007.

COMMUNITY INIATIVES COMMITTEE

The Community Initiatives Committee (CIC) is listing upcoming events in the community and working on branding. Projects like the Heritage Community Services interpretive signs may be able to work jointly with the CIC.

NEW BUSINESS

Don Reksten circulated a copy of Oak Bay's Heritage Strategic Plan. A copy of this plan will go out to each member of the committee. Christopher Watts will review and update the document.

The St. Michael's sign project is ongoing. The current owner of the property has spoken to Christopher Watts

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Heritage Steering Committee will be on Thursday April 12, 2007 at 8:30 am

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.